

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TAGS: ECOSOC
SUBJ: ECOSOC COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: AGENDA ITEM 13(B)
NOMINATION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF UN RESEARCH
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. PRIOR TO ACTUAL SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD,
THE COMMISSION WILL BE ASKED TO MAKE A PROCEDURAL DECISION
ON THE QUESTION OF TERMS OF OFFICE FOR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.
IN THE PAST, BOARD MEMBERS SERVED 3 YEAR TERMS AND WERE
ELIGIBLE FOR RE-ELECTION FOR ANOTHER 3 YEARS FOR A TOTAL
OF 6 YEARS SERVICE. FOUR YEARS AGO WHEN THE COMMISSION
CHANGED FROM AN ANNUAL TO A BI-ANNUAL CYCLE, THE TERM OF
OFFICE WAS CHANGED FROM A 3 YEAR TERM TO A 4 YEAR TERM IN
ORDER TO COINCIDE WITH THE CYCLE OF MEETINGS OF THE
COMMISSION.

2. THE COMMISSION MUST NOW DECIDE WHETHER BOARD
MEMBERS SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR RE-ELECTION, THUS
CREATING A POSSIBLE 8 YEAR TERM. THE DISADVANTAGE OF
AN 8 YEAR TERM IS THAT IT IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED TOO
LONG FOR SERVICE ON A UN BODY. ON THE OTHER HAND,
IF BOARD MEMBERS WERE LIMITED TO ONLY ONE-4 YEAR
TERM, THERE WOULD BE A COMPLETE TURNOVER EVERY 4 YEARS.

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THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, MOHEMED DIAWARA, MINISTER OF
PLANNING, IVORY COAST, HAS PROPOSED THAT PERSONS WHO
HAVE SERVED A 4 YEAR TERM SHOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR
ELECTION TO AN ADDITIONAL 2 YEAR TERM.

3. WE BELIEVE THIS IS A LOGICAL SOLUTION AND RECOMMEND
DEPT AUTHRIZE US TO SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL.

4. THE FOLLOWING ARE CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION. IF THE "2YEAR PLAN" IS APPROVED, THE 5 FOLLOWING PERSONS WHO ARE CURRENTLY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD WOULD SEEK ADDITIONAL 2 YEAR TERMS:

KHALEEQ AHMED NAQVI - INDIA
HERBERT MAURICE ADEBOLA ONITIRI - NIGERIA
BERISLAV SEFER - YUGOSLAVIA
ELEANOR BERNERT SHELDON - USA
RODOLFO STEVENHAGEN - MEXICO

5. REPLACEMENTS WILL BE ELECTED FOR JACQUES DELORS, FRANCE, AND GUNNAR KARL MYRDAL, SWEDEN. THE FRENCH HAVE NOMINATED MR. REPERT, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE FRENCH DEVELOPMENT PLAN. TO REPLACE MYRDAL, THE SWEDES HAVE NOMINATED KARL ERIC KNUTSSON, A CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGIST, PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF STOCKHOLM, AND MEMBER OF ECOSOC COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THE WEST GERMANS ALSO HAVE A CANDIDATE, DR. DIETRICH KEBCHULL, AN ECONOMIST WITH THE FRG FOREIGN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE. IF THE FRG PUSHES THEIR CANDIDATE, THERE WILL BE, AS FAR AS WE KNOW AT PRESENT, ONE MORE CANDIDATE THAN THERE ARE SLOTS AVAILABLE.

6. AT THE PREVIOUS COMMISSION MEETING, THE SLATE OF CANDIDATES WAS CHOSEN IN INFORMAL SESSIONS AND NO VOTING TOOK PLACE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT COMMENTS ON CANDIDACY OF KEBCHULL AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH US LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DELEGATION SHOULD INSIST ON RE-ELECTION OF THE US MEMBER ELEANOR SHELDON.

7. FRG FIRST SECRETARY INFORMED THE US DELEGATION THAT THEY DID NOT EXPECT THEIR CANDIDATE TO WIN ELECTION, BUT WERE HOPING THAT IF THE 2 YEAR ADDITIONAL TERM WENT THROUGH, THAT DR. KEBCHULL WOULD BE PUT ON THE BOARD 2 YEARS HENCE. THE FIRST SECRETARY ADDED THAT HE BELIEVED THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT UNRISD FINANCIALLY IN SPITE OF A POSSIBLE KEBCHULL LOSS THIS YEAR.CATTO

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